GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1539
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
COMPUTER AND INTERNET FACILITY IN VILLAGES
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

-

(a) the number of villages in the country where the Union Governmenet has provided computer and internet facility, as on June 30, 2005;

(b) the time by which this facility would be made available to all States/Villages in the country; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), a public Sector under the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), provides Internet Service throughout the country on local call basis. BSNL under its `Internet Dhabas` scheme provides one free Internet Access Connection to the franchisees of Internet Dhabas in each of rural Block Head Quarters. As on June 30, 2005 , a total of 4121 Internet Dhabas have been provided in 3792 (BHQs) out of a total of 6343 Block Headquarters (BHQs) in the country.

In addition, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes.

- National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established 487 community Information Centres (CIC) at block level in the eight northern eastern states with the objective of providing internet access, email, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 60 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.

- NIC. in collaboration with Maharashtra State Govt. has provided computers and Internet facility at 70 villages under Warana project.

- Under the Vidya Vahini pilot project 140 Govt./Govt aided schools in the 7 districts across 6 States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra have been provided computer with Internet connection.

- Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) a Society under the Department of Information Technology has established 45 Centres in district Head Quarters including High Speed Data Communication Facility across the country.

(b) and (c): This is a continuing activity which is dependent on resource allocation in each plan and demand generation in the market.